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By Chm, NARS, Date 5/10/78

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EXDIS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

Realize you fully aware importance keeping General Khanh as far as possible on same track as ourselves regarding possible action against North. Khanh's speech of yesterday plus editorial in Bui Diem's paper suggests to us that GVN may be attempting stimulate pressure for U.S. involvement in such action.

You may wish to reiterate to Khanh importance of maintaining parallel position. Talk of this sort tends to distract GVN from first job of getting on with pacification. It also confuses our signals to the North and the rest of the world. If it should become necessary to take such action in response to significant escalation by Hanoi, we would want to be in position of responding to new aggression rather than appear to be carrying out

Drafted by: S/VN:MVForrestal:caw MVF

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: The Secretary

Clearances:
S/S - Mr. Tueller BCT
FE William Bundy WWB

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previously planned and publicized offensive.

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